

NFIP

New Hampshire's Floodplain Management Program

Fact Sheet #1

Program Overview

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Introduction

The New Hampshire Floodplain Management Program is coordinated by the Office of Energy and Planning (OEP). OEP is the state coordinating agency for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP is a Federal program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which allows property owners in participating communities to purchase insurance protection against losses from flooding.

Communities can voluntarily participate in the NFIP by making an agreement with FEMA and adopting and enforcing floodplain regulations to reduce the flood risks of new construction in FEMA's designated special flood hazard areas.

The goal of the NH Floodplain Management Program is to ensure that communities participate in the NFIP to the maximum extent possible, and thereby achieve the flood loss reduction objectives of the NFIP. To achieve this goal OEP focuses on six strategies, which are described on the other side of this handout.

NH Floodplain Management Program Vision

- Create a continuously improving program for floodplain management through effective leadership and partnerships;
- Foster an environment to build state and local capabilities; and
- Promote floodplain management excellence within the state of New Hampshire.

NH Floodplain Management Program

New Hampshire's Floodplain Management Program focuses on six key strategic areas. Below is a brief description of each of these strategic areas.

Technical Assistance

Technical assistance is the largest of the activities provided by the OEP NFIP staff. The staff offers technical assistance through researching and answering questions, providing specific one-on-one training via telephone or email, supplying communities with NFIP related materials, and acting as a liaison with FEMA as needed.

Ordinance Assistance

OEP NFIP staff provides assistance to any community whose ordinance is in need of updating or amending. In addition, OEP will continue to assure that the State model ordinances are consistent with federal and state law.

Community Assistance Visits and Contacts

OEP NFIP staff conducts Community Assistance Visits (CAVs) and Community Assistance Contacts, which are tools employed by the NFIP to periodically visit with or contact communities to ensure they are properly enforcing NFIP regulation and to offer technical assistance. FEMA views CAVs as a primary compliance tool.

Workshops and Training

OEP NFIP staff conducts workshops and training for various groups throughout the state. Education and outreach play a key role in promoting and building floodplain management activity throughout the state.

Mapping Assistance

OEP NFIP assists individuals with obtaining floodplain maps for all communities in the state. Mapping Assistance is also provided as a component of the Map Modernization Program, which is FEMA's current effort to update the nation's floodplain maps into a digital format.

Coordination with other Governmental Programs and Agencies

OEP NFIP staff participates in interagency reviews of state funded projects. The purpose of these reviews is to assure compliance with floodplain management regulations and to meet the objectives of Federal Executive Order 11988 and State Executive Order 96-4, which directs state agencies to comply with the flood plain management requirements of local communities participating in the NFIP whenever state-owned properties are involved in activities that impact the floodplain.

Post-Disaster Assistance

OEP NFIP staff offers assistance to communities affected by a flood disaster, other state agencies, and individuals as it relates to flood hazard mitigation and the NFIP.